



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Giesler, et al. ) Group Art Unit 2164  
 Appl. No. : 09/493,794 )  
 Filed : January 28, 2000 )  
 For : BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS ) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
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 Examiner : R. Weisberger ) Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.  
       : ) 20231, on  
       : ) November 19, 2001  
       : ) (Date)  
       : ) Adeel S. Akhtar, Reg. No. 41,394

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J. Cettn  
1-16-02

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AMENDMENT

JAN 14 2002

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the May 23, 2001 Office Action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 26-30 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 15-20 and 31 as follows (marked-up copy in addendum):

1. (Amended) A system for facilitating chemical supplier transactions comprising:

a network coupled to a plurality of member businesses;

a clearinghouse computer server associated with the member businesses and coupled to the member businesses through the network, the clearinghouse computer server receiving and forwarding electronic messages transmitted between at least two of the plurality of member businesses, the messages corresponding to communications in a chemical supplier transaction that relate to initiation of the chemical supplier transaction,